

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES****Public Health Service****Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention**

November 5, 2002

Paul V. Effler, M.D., M.P.H.  
Chief Epidemiologist  
Department of Health  
1250 Punchbowl St, #443  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Dr. Effler,

I am writing you concerning the recent reports that the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) Program has rated Hawaii's NPS preparedness as a Red+ on a Red/Amber/Green scale. The date of this rating was May 2002. The fundamental issues behind this rating were:

- A lack of coordination within the Department of Health (DOH)
- A lack of coordination between the DOH and other state and local agencies
- Failure to identify key resources necessary for a NPS response

In October 2002, I visited the DOH and was impressed to see the changes that were made in the last six months. Most important of these changes were:

- Reorganization within the DOH to foster a spirit of collaboration in NPS planning
- Hiring a full-time Bioterrorism Preparedness Pharmacist to lead NPS planning and coordination efforts
- Identification of dispensing sites on Oahu and the Neighbor Islands
- Tentative identification of a receiving facility

While a formal evaluation was not performed during this visit, I have no doubt that the work of you and your staff has raised your NPS preparedness rating out of the Red range. If you have any further questions about this issue, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven D. Bice", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Steven D. Bice, Director  
National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Program  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Cc: Bart Aronoff